

## Massaro, Luly (PUC)

---

**From:** Camilo Viveiros <camiloviveiros@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 8, 2020 6:04 PM  
**To:** Massaro, Luly (PUC)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : RI PUC Docket 5058 Community Aggregation Comments from the George Wiley Center  
**Attachments:** RI PUC Docket 5058 Community Aggregation Comments from the George Wiley Center.pdf

December 8, 2020

Dear Ms. Massaro and Members of the Commission,

### Re: Comments on Docket 5058

These comments are on behalf of the George Wiley Center in response to the RI Public Utilities Commission solicitation in Docket 5058 where National Grid is proposing to provide certain electricity consumer data to municipal aggregation programs in order for a program to effectively execute a competitive bid for electricity supply and subsequently enroll residents in the program consistent with RI Gen. Law §39-3-1.2.

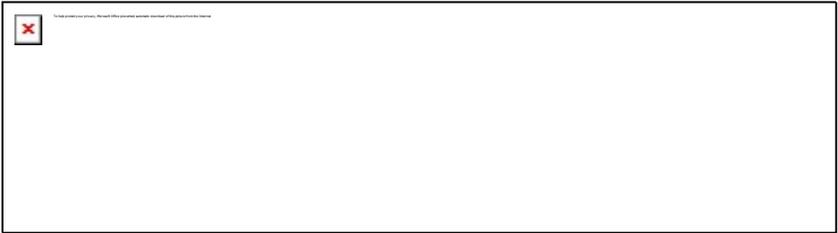
The George Wiley Center is a grassroots agency that organizes members of the low-income community to advocate for systematic changes aimed at alleviating problems associated with poverty. The George Wiley Center supports aggregation program options and has been following the progress of municipalities toward implementing aggregation programs. We recognize the imperative need to provide new options for electricity supply to residents in order to provide more stable – and potentially lower – rates along with increasing the amount of electricity coming from renewable sources as part of a climate action plan. Of particular importance to the George Wiley Center is how municipal aggregation programs can help protect low-income consumers who are more likely to sign-up for competitive supply offers and charged higher rates. Furthermore, municipalities have already taken significant steps towards implementing aggregation plans to include program designs that will create a debt-forgiveness and protection from collections for A60 (rate) customers.

To deliver on these goals, it is necessary for the Public Utilities Commission to allow for the sharing of customer account information. Recognizing that the sharing of this information is a change from past practices, the George Wiley Center believes that such change is necessary to implement the good public policy passed by the General Assembly that enables municipalities to provide the benefits of aggregation programs to all residents and small businesses.

In addition, it is our understanding that the policy goals of the program of offering lower, stable electricity supply costs and increasing demand for renewable energy is only achievable through a truly opt-out program. By making the aggregation program the default supply, the program will generate significant demand for additional renewable energy, which has the dual benefit of reducing harmful greenhouse gas emissions that disproportionately impact low-income consumers who contribute the least to emissions while simultaneously creating additional market pressure that will support renewable energy generators.

For these reasons, the George Wiley Center respectfully requests that the Public Utilities Commission approves a policy change as part of this docket that would allow National Grid to share consumer data, including usage history and sufficient information to enroll customers with the aggregation program's vetted supplier, without individual consent. Such action is consistent with the action of the General Assembly that can help to improve the inequitable energy cost burden that low-income ratepayers face.

Sincerely,  
Camilo Viveiros  
Executive Director



*Organizing for social and economic justice*

George Wiley Center

32 East Ave

Pawtucket, RI 02860

office: 401-728-5555

fax: 401-725-1020

[georgewileycenterri@gmail.com](mailto:georgewileycenterri@gmail.com)

[georgewileycenter.org](http://georgewileycenter.org) [[georgewileycenter.org](http://georgewileycenter.org)]